

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-21 are pending and at issue in the present application, claim 3 having been cancelled and claim 21 having been added by this amendment.

As an initial matter, the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 4 of the specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors contained therein. These amendments do not add new matter to the specification.

The undersigned traverses the examiner's objections to claims 13 and 19 for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Nevertheless, claims 13 and 19 have been amended to recite that the dispensing system is not heated above ambient room temperature. The undersigned respectfully submits that these amendments adequately address the examiner's objections to claims 13 and 19 and requests appropriate withdrawal of the objections thereto.

Applicant thanks the examiner for indicating that claims 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 9 has accordingly been rewritten in independent form including all the limitation of base claim 1 and further including recitation of a reservoir for volatile liquid to address the examiner's rejection for a non-enablement, thereby placing claims 9 and 10 in position for immediate allowance, notice of which is kindly requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4-20 as not enabled. Applicant further traverses the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11-14, and 16-20, as anticipated by Yurdin (U.S. 3,633,881) and/or Pedrotti (U.S. 6,862,403). Further applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 15 as obvious over Yurdin.

Claim 1, and claims 2, 4-8, 11-16, and 21 dependent directly or indirectly thereon, recite a dispensing system for a volatile liquid including a fan adapted to push an air stream and a capillary member in fluid communication with a reservoir for the volatile liquid. The capillary member has a body, in which a portion of the body is positioned within the air stream with the fan activated, and in which the portion of the body is impervious to passage of the air stream therethrough in a direction of the air stream. The air stream passes unobstructed over opposing surfaces of the capillary member aligned generally transversed to the direction of the air stream.

Claim 17, and claims 18-20 dependent directly thereon, recite a dispensing system for a volatile liquid including a dispenser having a housing defining interior, a fan coupled with the

housing and adapted to generate an air stream flowing from the fan, and a capillary member in fluid communication with a reservoir for a volatile liquid. The capillary member has a portion positioned to be immersed in the air stream in which the portion of the capillary member is faced apart from any interior portion of the housing.

The cited art does not disclose or suggest a dispensing system for a volatile liquid as recited in claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11-16, and 21, in which a fan is adapted to push an air stream, which passes unobstructed over opposing surfaces of a capillary member aligned generally transversed to the direction of the air stream.

Further, the cited art does not disclose or suggest a dispensing system as recited in claims 14 and 15, wherein a motor for the fan turns the fan according to a predetermined cycle comprising a motor "off period" of a predetermined length of time.

In addition, the cited art does not disclose or suggest a dispensing system for a volatile liquid as recited in claims 17-20, in which a capillary member has a portion position to be immersed in an air stream blowing from a fan and in which the portion of the capillary member is spaced apart from any interior portion of the housing.

Further the cited art does not disclose or suggest the dispensing system recited in claim 21 wherein the air stream is substantially cylindrical and disposed on a blowing side of the fan.

Rather, Yurdin discloses an apparatus for evaporating deodorant liquid in which a wick extends from a reservoir for the liquid deodorant to an interior of a centrifugal blower. The centrifugal blower draws or pulls air from an air supply passage across an exposed end of the wick and subsequently draws the air through blades thereof and pushes the air out a discharge outlet. The blower has a manual on switch and an automatic off switch that turns the blower off after having been on for a predetermined period of time. The blower remains off for an indeterminate period of time depending upon when a user decides to turn the blower on again.

Pedrotti et al. discloses a dispensing system for a liquid fragrance contained within a bottle having a wick extending from interior thereof to an exterior. A housing for retaining the bottle and wick includes a fan and a heating element for dispersing the liquid fragrance into the surrounding atmosphere. The bottle is carried by the housing such that an exposed tip portion of the wick is disposed adjacent to the heating element. The fan generates an air stream that is

blocked from blowing directly across the exposed wick portion rather by a set of louvers and wall sections, which force the air stream from the fan to flow above the exposed wick tip and out a set of outlet openings. The exposed wick portion is engaged by an adjustment mechanism of the housing. See column 6, lines 21-32.

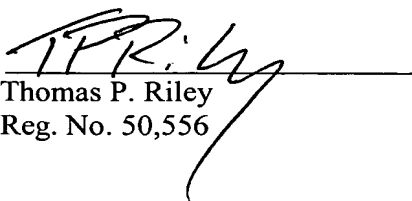
Because none of the cited references individually discloses every element of the claims at issue, it follows that such claims are not anticipated thereby. Further, because the prior art does not disclose a suggestion of an incentive to make the claimed combination, it follows that the claims at issue are not obvious thereover. The prior art must disclose at least a suggestion of an incentive for the claimed combination of elements in order for a *prima facie* case of obviousness to be established. See *M.P.E.P.* §2143.01.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims at issue and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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